FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 DECEMBER 1984

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi aircraft carried out another air strike in the Gulf on 18 December, scoring accurate and effective hits on a large maritime target south of Khark Island, an Iraqi military spokesman announced in a statement reported by INA. A similar target was also hit by the Iraqis in the same area the previous day, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Meanwhile, an attack on a tanker by "unknown" aircraft in the southern part of the Gulf was reported by Tehran radio, citing an AP dispatch based on local shipping sources which said there were no casualties.

Earlier, the Iraqi Defense Ministry's *AL-QADISIYAH* declared that Iraq will use new, sophisticated weapons to curb any Iranian aggression, INA disclosed.

Israel

Coalition Crisis — The Likud ministers will consult on 19 December to decide whether to leave the government because of the crisis, which the Alignment has made "no effort" to solve, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced in remarks broadcast by IDF radio early on 18 December. Meanwhile, Jerusalem radio confirmed that SHAS has resigned from the government, noting that Minister Without Portfolio Yitzhaq Peretz' resignation became effective on 18 December as consultations continued among ministers. However, in remarks broadcast by the radio, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres said he does not regard Peretz' resignation as the end of the matter, adding that a solution to the conflict between SHAS and the National Religious Party over the distribution of portfolios is still possible.

Terrorist Attack — A hand grenade was thrown at a bus in Tel Aviv, injuring three people, Jerusalem radio reported on 17 December.

Trial of Hijackers

The hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner will be put on trial by the Iranian authorities and will not be extradited to any other country, the Tehran public prosecutor announced at a press conference reported by IRNA.

USSR Delegation in Kuwait

Chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities of the USSR Supreme Soviet Avgust Voss arrived in Kuwait to consolidate bilateral parliamentary relations and hold talks on peace, the arms race, and Middle East issues, according to his remarks cited by KUNA.

OPEC

Before leaving for the OPEC ministerial conference in Geneva, Iranian Oil minister Mohammad Gharazi declared that Iran has adhered strictly to its OPEC obligations, but it will not make sacrifices that would allow "Western conspirators" to undermine that organization, Tehran radio reported. The market has been weakened because some members have increased their production, Gharazi alleged. An Iranian Oil Ministry statement cited by IRNA added that Iran considers the present OPEC production ceiling to be too high. In Iraq, Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi, in a statement before his departure for Geneva cited by INA, also noted that the oil market has not stabilized because certain countries have not abided by their production quotas or have directly or indirectly reduced their prices.

North Africa

Libyan Contacts — On a stopover in Kuwait on his way to the ICO ministerial conference in Sanaa, Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Abd al-Salam al-Turayki asserted to reporters that the reasons for the Muslim boycott of Egypt still remain and he recalled that at the Fes summit Libya strongly opposed readmitting Egypt to the ICO, KUNA reported. Another official, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, discussed bilateral relations and Mediterranean affairs with Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi during a private visit to Rome, Rome radio revealed.

Honecker in Algeria — President Chadli Bendjedid and Chairman of the GDR Council of State Erich Honecker held political talks at the beginning of Honecker's 3-day visit, Algiers radio reported.

Refugees, Clashes in Sudan — The People's Assembly speaker stated that there are now 1.1 million Ethiopian refugees in eastern Sudan, SUNA reported. As for clashes in the south, seven crew members have been killed and six are missing after attacks on steamers, the agency disclosed. Recent reports by the clandestine radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army have claimed successes in attacks on river boats and government troops in the south.

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Authorities Deny Air Raids into Pakistan

LD171723 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summond to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1330 this afternoon. The following points were mentioned to him by the head of the first Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

Following their previous accusations, the Pakistani authorities have again alleged that two Afghan aircraft intruded 15 km into that country's air space on 11 December and bombed and fired rockets on Paywar Kotal, near Para Chinar.

The DRA authorities regard this recent allegation of the Pakistani authorities as untrue. Strongly rejecting them, they add that the Pakistani military authorities, while expanding and intensifying armed aggression and provocations, have intensified their fabrications, accusations, and hostile propaganda against the DRA. The responsibility for this, which can result only in the creation of tension and danger in the region, rests totally with the Pakistani authorities.

FRG TV Interviews Karmal on Soviet Occupation

DW171429 Cologne Westdeutscher Rundfunk Television Network in German 2000 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Excerpt] [Interview with President Babrak Karmal by correspondent Mostafa Danesh in Kabul; date not given; in Dari with superimposed German translation; from the "Auslandsstudio" program — recorded]

[Karmal] The legal Government of Afghanistan, recognized by all countries, invited the limited number of Soviet troops. Also, the inviation is in keeping with the treaty concluded in 1978 between the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA] and the Soviet Union. It is also in harmony with the UN Charter. The limited number of Soviet troops were invited to protect Afghanistan's independence and freedom because Afghanistan's independence, freedom, sovereignty, and territorial integrity were being seriously jeopardized by the aggressive threat from the region's reactionary circles and from imperialism, above all U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonists.

As soon as the armed intrusions and aggression by foreign countries are eliminated and there are guarantees that something of this sort will not recur, the limited contingent from the Soviet Union will, of course, return to its peaceful homeland. In addition, this is an internal affair involving Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

[Danesh] Mr President, according to Western estimates, millions of Afghans disapprove of Afghanistan's policy and its close ties with the Soviet Union.

[Karmal] Millions of Afghans, that is nonsense. The April Revolution which took place with the will of the Afghan people and under the leadership of our party, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA], is fully supported by the vast majority of our people. Naturally, in any social and political revolution, there will always be a small minority that opposes the revolution. Our revolution is a national and democratic revolution; it is directed against feudalism and imperialism.

Quite naturally, the revolution has harmed the material interests of the monarchist circles, the rich upper class, corrupt bureaucrats, and especially the feudal lords and other reactionary forces. For this reason, some of these people fled into the country's interior and some to foreign countries.

[Danesh] On the other hand, as the head of this country's government, are you not afraid that the presence of Soviet troops in your country keeps the resistance of many Afghans against the Soviets and your government alive?

[Karmal] The DRA Government, the PDPA, and, of course, myself personally, are patriots of our people. We never lose sight of our people's national interest. As a sincere patriot, I tell you that the word fear has no meaning for us. We valiantly say that as progressive patriots of the new and revolutionary Afghanistan, we are proud of the sincere friendship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. This is the guaranteed basis for the consolidation of independence and freedom of our country.

Barialay Returns to Kabul After Visit to CSSR

LD142317 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Dec 84

[Text] Muhmud Barialay, candidate member of the Politburo and secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, who sometime ago went to Prague, the capital of the CSSR, to participate in the round table discussion of the *PEACE AND SOCIALISM* magazine, returned to Kabul today.

Nurzay Returns From USSR Cooperatives Congress

LD180027 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] 'Abdol Qayum Nurzay, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Central Council of the DRA Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, returned home today after participating in the 11th Congress of the USSR Central Union of Consumer Cooperatives.

Bareq Shafi'i, member of the PDPA Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the National Fatherland Front Central Council, and a number of agricultural cooperative officials welcomed him at Kabul Airport.

1,000 Rebels Surrender in Parvan Province

LD171815 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] According to a BAKHTAR correspondent, 1,000 people of our deceived compatriots who belonged to the Jami'at-e Eslami and Hezb-e Eslami bands, together with their ringleaders (Meharboddin), (Zalmay), (Faruq), and (Mahbobollah) of the

murderous (Golboddin) band; and (Mir Khan), belonging to the Jami'at-e Eslami band, went over to our revolutionary government in Parvan Province. They were active in 18 villages of that province, incuding (Dasht-e Rabat), (Rabat-e Qarabaghi), (Qala-e Naw), (Ool-e Asiab), (Jawaz-e Sang), (Chiyka), (Panj Padar), (Chob Bakhsh), (Habibrak), and (Dah Mollah). They took with them their weapons, including DSHK's, mortars, recoilless guns, rocket launchers, and assorted weapons.

The meetings, which were held in the aforementioned villages on the occasion of their joining the revolutionary government, were attended by (Nea'matollah), candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee and head of the Central Zone; the secretary of the provincial party committee of Parvan Province; the governor and heads of local departments of that province, and a large number of toilers of the villages.

At the beginning of the meetings a few verses were read from the Holy Koran. Then the head of the Central Zone, the secretary of the party provincial committee and the governor of Parvan, spoke about the lofty aims of our party and state and once again drew the attention of the surrendered persons to their heavy and important tasks in defending the consolidation of revolutionary sovereignty in the villages.

Also at the meetings, (Meharboddin), (Fateh Khan), (Zalmay), and (Mahbobollah), the ringleaders of the armed rebels, joined the state, spoke in turn, and after exposing the true faces of the bands and leaders of the so-called Eslami groups, who on the instruction of Washington and Islamabad have set in motion the murder and massacre of our innocent compatriots who made every kind of sacrifice in serving and defending the homeland, compatriots and their villages, promised that they will continue their just struggle until the elmination of the last vestiges of the rebels. They formed new security posts and the state flags were hoisted at the headquarters of the security posts.

According to another report, 200 tons of flour, 15 tons of cooking oil, 1 ton of tea, 10,000 bars of soap, 6,000 bundles of matches, and 30,000 meters of cloth at a total value of more than 10 million Afghani were distributed to the deserving people of these villages.

Tehran Reports Attack on USSR Embassy in Kabul

LD171228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] According to reports received from Afghanistan, on the eve of the fifth anniversary of the military occupation of this country by the Soviet Union, Afghan Islamic revolutionaries attacked the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

They used medium weapons and caused some considerable damage to the buildings inside the compound. There has not yet been any further reports about losses of life.

According to these reports, despite the arrival of winter and cold weather, the Islamic revolutionaries' activities in Kabul and other provinces of Afghanistan against the occupying forces and the government units, continues unabated.

In connection with the above, the Islamic revolutionaries, having attacked the TV transmitter in Qandahar last week, destroyed this transmitter.

Sources Say Gandhi Remark 'Warning' to Sri Lanka

HK120828 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 12 Dec 84

[By Neville de Silva]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 12 (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Government was meeting here today to weigh a tough statement from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi accusing its security forces of "indisriminate killing."

Mr. Gandhi yesterday blamed the troops for a "heavy loss of innocent lives" in the north and east of the island. Observers said it was his toughest statement so far on the Tamil separatist crisis.

The Indian prime minister also accused the Sri Lankan forces of harassing Indian fishermen enjoying "traditional fishing rights."

Mr. Gandhi's statement coincided with the arrival in New Delhi of President Ronald Reagan's ambassador-at-large General Vernon Walters. Gen. Walters, who arrived in the Indian capital from Colombo, was to open talks with the Indian Government today.

Highly reliable sources here told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that Mr. Gandhi's hard-hitting statement was a "warning" to Sri Lanka to take "meaningful steps towards a political settlement."

The statement came three days before President Junius Jayewardene reveals draft laws for greater district autonomy to a national roundtable conference of political parties and ethnic and political groups.

It was also intended to make clear to Gen. Walters that India wanted a speedy solution to the Sri Lankan crisis which has left an official 374 dead in the current wave of violence starting November 19.

Sri Lankan leaders told Gen. Walters India had to crack down on Tamil separatists using India's neighbouring Tamil Nadu as a guerilla base before a meaningful political solution could be achieved. India has denied the bases exist.

(In New Delhi, a government official said Gen. Walters would meet with Indian Foreign Ministry Secretary Maharajkishan Rasgotra and leading foreign policy maker Gopalaswami Parthasarathy, although the U.S. Embassy here refused to comment on the visit).

Highly reliable sources here said India called for U.S. intervention after the Sri Lankan Navy sunk an Indian trawler last Wednesday.

The sources said Mr. Gandhi's statement that Indian fishermen had been harassed was "surprising" since the trawler had been "well inside Sri Lankan territorial waters" and had ignored warning shots by the navy.

"If India turns a blind eye to Tamil terrorists coming from southern India into our territory to kill our people then we must do something about it," one source said.

He said it was India's duty to stop its fishermen from entering Sri Lanka waters and dismissed the argument of traditional fishing grounds.

The source also discounted the comments of some observers that Mr. Gandhi's statement was an election ploy aimed at winning the votes of the 50 million Tamils in Tamil Nadu State many of whom support the Sri Lankan separatists.

"Right now it is a secondary issue. The intent of this statement is to tell Sri Lanka to make concessions to the Tamils at the conference and make the Indian position clear to Washington," the source said.

Gandhi on Colombo Talks

BK180714 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that the next round of talks in Colombo will lead to a political solution of the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. Addressing a news conference in Calcutta last night, he described the situation there as serious. They have used a lot of force, but we hope no further force will be used, Mr Gandhi said. Referring to the earlier discussions between India and Sri Lanka, he said he was hopeful that something will come out of this.

Replying to a question, Mr Gandhi said the government is determined to stop further infiltration from across the Bangladesh border. If necessary, the entire border will be fenced, he said.

On India's relations with Pakistan, the prime minister said Islamabad is still following a line which is not in conformity with President Zia's utterances.

Speaking on the law and order situation in the states, Mr Gandhi said that since the matter is not entirely a central subject, he would take a fresh look into the whole problem. He said the government will ensure security and safety to all sections of the people, including Sikhs. Mr Gandhi said no untoward incident will be allowed to happen under any circumstances.

Referring to the gas leakage mishap in Bhopal, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said a fresh look will be taken on the location of plants handling materials hazardous to human lives.

The Department of Environment will be suitably strengthened to look into such matters.

Gandhi on Domestic Situation, Foreign Policy

GF171744 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 16 Dec 84 p 18

[Interview with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi by *AL-BAYAN* correspondent Savita Lucknow in India — date not given]

[Excerpts] [Savita Lucknow] What are the biggest challenges that you are facing at the moment?

[Rajiv Gandhi] The Punjab is a challenge that we should quickly overcome, as well as the Assam, even though it's less dangerous. But we hope to solve its problem soon.

The events in Sri Lanka are worrying us all in India, particularly the killing of the Tamils at the beginning of this week. We really hope that they achieve a kind of understanding during the general meeting of their party due to be held soon.

On the domestic arena, our economy is good and strong. In my opinion, with a little increase in the effectiveness of the administration, we will be able to progress at great speed.

[Lucknow] You talked about "foreign hands" instigating the separatist groups in India, but what do you think were the shortcomings that occurred within and gave the opportunity to these "foreign" hands to exploit it?

[Gandhi] The biggest shortcoming on our side occurred during the ruling period of the Janata group, which disrupted our administrative apparatus by establishing various committees — not only the Shah committee, which was the most criminal one, but also other committees.

This led to the disruption of the administrative apparatus and made those who administer it abstain from taking decisions. Moreover, in one way or another, they closed down the intelligence services and handed some of them to the investigation committees. One of them passed on all the information about the other. Internal committees were formed to look into the matter of the third one. In this way all our apparatus were paralyzed. Now we are on our way to restructuring it but this requires some time.

[Lucknow] Two questions about your foreign policy. There is some fear that while you are facing all these problems within the country, India will not be able to show as much interest to international causes as it did in the past and that the Third World, the Arabs, and the Nonaligned Movement will lose a strong advocate.

[Gandhi] Our interest in foreign affairs will not be less than it was. In spite of the elections and all that is taking place, we took the initiative regarding Nicaragua and the problem of food in Africa and helped in this regard with a generous contribution. We are talking with elements in the Middle East regarding the dangerous problems there.

India has always been a loyal supporter of the Arab cause and will continue this traditional role in the future.

[Lucknow] What about the joint Indian-Arab economic projects?

[Gandhi] They will continue in the future on the past lines.

[Lucknow] Is Sri Lanka one of your domestic problems?

[Gandhi] No, it is not one of our domestic problems, but it is near us and effects the Indian Tamils. We do not want to intervene in Sri Lanka, but would like to see its government solve the problem.

Gandhi Hits Opposition on Akali Dal Stance

BK181302 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has said that the opposition parties are encouraging disruptive forces which are trying to weaken the nation's sovereignty and integrity. Addressing public meetings in Bihar today, he said some foreign powers are behind the antinational activities in Punjab, Assam, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Referring to the Punjab problem, Mr Gandhi said he has made it clear that the Anandpur Saheb resolution [of Sikhs] is not acceptable to the government. Unfortunately, the opposition did not oppose it; rather they are supporting the Akali Dal.

Thatcher Makes Brief Stop at Bombay Airport

BK180913 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The British prime minister, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who is on her way to Beijing, had a brief halt of an hour and a half at Bombay Airport this morning. Mrs Thatcher is accompanied by the British foreign secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe. The British prime minister was received at the airport by the chief secretary of Maharashtra, Mr R. D. Pradhan, and the acting British deputy high commissioner in India.

During her stay in China, the British prime minister will be signing an agreement to hand over Hong Kong to China in 1997.

'Broad Agreement' Reached With Mizo Leader

BK180711 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] A broad agreement appears to have been reached during the talks between the chairman of the Policy Planning Committee in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr G. Parthasarathy, and the Mizo National Front leader, Mr Laldenga, in New Delhi. This was indicated by official sources after their talks yesterday. It was also agreed to refer to the government the issues which require policy decisions. The talks are likely to be resumed in the middle of next month.

In a statement, Mr Laldenga said a few points remain to be sorted out and these would be referred to the prime minister for his guidance.

Further on Aftermath of Bhopal Gas Tragedy

Election in Bhopal Postponed

BK171248 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The Madhya Pradesh government has agreed to the recommendation of the chief electoral officer of the state for postponement of the election in Bhopal Lok Sabha constituency because of the gas tragedy. Disclosing this at a news conference

in Bhopal today, the chief minister, Mr Arjun Singh, said the state government has sent its comment in reply to the recommendation of the chief electoral officer in this regard.

Bhopal 'Returning to Normal'

BK181028 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] In Bhopal, life is fast returning to normal as a large number of people who had left the city started checking back home. The neutralization process of the remaining methyl isocyanate [MIC] gas in the Union Carbide plant is continuing for the 3d day today. Nearly two-thirds of the 15 tons of MIC gas has been converted into pesticide. The operation is likely to be completed by tomorrow afternoon. All precautionary measures have been taken and Indian Air Force helicopters spread water on the critical points and around the plant.

Out correspondent reports that a number of shops and business establishments opened this morning. Banks and government offices have also reported nearly full attendance. However, the main business establishments in old Bhopal city still remain closed.

Over 3,500 people have left the relief camps for the homes. The Madhya Pradesh government has set up seven centers to sell potatoes and onions at reasonable prices. Ration card holders will get double the quantity of their quota of rice, wheat, and other essential commodities.

Meanwhile, a leading American Democrat, Mr Stephen Solarz, who is in Bhopal, is having talks with the government officials on the tragedy. He told newsmen that he had come to the city to show the concern of the American people and the U.S. Congress for them. He said he is meeting the officials to see whether the U.S. Government can do anything in the matter.

According to an agency report, Brazil has rejected a 13 ton shipment of MIC gas sent by the Union Carbide Company. It is the third shipment of the chemical to be refused by a foreign company since the Bhopal gas tragedy.

Rao on Anderson Release

BK181027 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The union home minister, Mr P. V. Narasimha Rao, has asserted that the government did not succumb to any pressure from the United States on the release of the chairman of the Union Carbide, Mr Warren Anderson, who was arrested following the poisonous gas tragedy in Bhopal.

Talking to newsmen in Indore last night, he said the arrest of Mr Anderson was an independent decision of the Madhya Pradesh government.

On the law and order situation, Mr Rao said that it is under control and ruled out possibility of any violence in the country during the Lok Sabha polls.

He also said that continuity is being maintained in holding talks with agitation leaders of Assam to solve the problem of foreign nationals.

Sikh High Priests Retain Thekedar as Convenor

BK180058 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The five Sikh high priests today announced that Mr Surjan Singh Thekedar will continue to remain convenor of the ad hoc committee of the Akali Dal. Mr Thekedar was appointed convenor of the priests on the 7th of last month after the removal of Mr Prakash Singh Majitha.

President Issues Ordinance on ID for Referendum

BK181053 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] An ordinance issued by the president in Rawalpindi today provides that the presiding officers at polling stations in the referendum tomorrow need not insist on the production by the voters of the identity card issued under the national registration act 1973.

It says that when a voter presents himself to vote at the referendum, the presiding officer shall issue a ballot paper to him after satisfying himself about his identity on production of such documents, material, or evidence as he may deem fit.

Opposition Calls Referendum 'Fraud'

BK180947 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, 80,000 polling booths are being set up for tomorrow's referendum. The referendum has been arranged to say yes or no to the continuation of General Ziaul Haq as president of the country for the next 5 years.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties in Pakistan, including the Movement for Restoration of Democracy, have described the referendum move of President Zia as a fraud on the people of the country.

Zia Stresses Need for New Islamic System

BK161104 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq told a big gathering in (Mangora) this morning that the only way for the country's progress, stability, strength, and a distinct individuality of our nation is that Nizam-I-Mustafa [Islamic system] is implemented in every walk of life.

He said as events of the past have clearly shown that Western democracy is not suited to the genius of our people and aspirations of the people can only be met through Nizam-I-Mustafa. In this context, the president referred to the 1977 mass movement when the people had to make sacrifices for the introduction of Islamic system of government. The movement was not launched, he added, for only a change of government but it was actually designed to change the system of government and to move toward the achievement of objective for which the country came into being.

The president said the present government took over in 1977 when chaotic conditions prevailed in the country and there was a need to change the nation's direction toward Islam. Soon after takeover, the government initiated moves for Islamization of the society. These included zakat, ushr [Islamic taxes], interest-free banking, and Qanun-I-Shahadat [Islamic law of evidence]. He said all have all along been endeavoring to set up an Islamic shooraiyat [consultation] system. The president said institutions of local bodies were set up of the people as a step to enable elected representatives to serve the masses and [word indistinct] to work for the development of their respective areas.

The referendum, he added, was being held to ensure the continuation of the process of Islamization and to pave the way for holding elections in accordance with his August 12 program by the 23d of March next year. Earlier, on his arrival in (Mangora), the president was accorded a tumultuous welcome by people drawn from all over Malakand division.

Delhi Says Asghar Khan Under House Arrest

BK180717 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] In Pakistan, the chief of the Tehrik-i-Istiqlal Party, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, has been placed under house arrest for a week soon after his return from a visit to London. He had supported the call given by the Movement for Restoration of Democracy for boycott of tomorrow's referndum.

Minister on Government's Economic Achievements

BK181107 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The federal minister for planning and development has said the economic record of the present government deserves a resounding vote of confidence which will give further impetus to the economic and social development on truly Islamic lines. In an interview with ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN in Islamabad today, he said that the present government had pulled Pakistan's economy from the brink of ruin and restored its viability and international standing.

The minister pointed out that since 1977 the country had experienced the fastest economic growth among the developing countries and it now had the highest per capita income in South Asia. He added that the economic achievements of the present government had been truly spectacular by all international standards and according to objective of [word indistinct].

SRI LANKA

Delhi on TULF Dissatisfaction With New Proposals

BK150904 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Excerpt] The Tamil United Liberation Front has criticised Mr Jayewardene's new proposals on resolving the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka.

A spokesman of the front said that the proposals fall far short of its demand for an autonomous Tamil area within the country.

Search Operations Net 73 Terrorist Suspects

BK171604 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Security forces have arrested 73 terrorist suspects during combing-out operations in Jaffna yesterday.

A State Ministry release also said that about 100 persons who are resident workers at a cashew farm at (Morugan) have left the farm as they have been threatened by terrorists.

These workers have been accommodated at the [name indistinct] government school. More families are expected to leave the farm today.

According to the release, civilians at Kokkilai are reported to be (?armed). Police were able to recover nine empty SLR's [self-loading rifles] from a house at (Kulnaikuda) in the (Irralur) police (?station).

In another operation, one terorist was killed when the Army opened fire on two terrorists who were hiding in a house at Nilaveli.

9 Killed by Landmine

BK181321 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The officer in charge [OIC] of police, Kalawanchikudi, seven other policemen, and a civilian were killed today when their jeep was blown up by a landmine. It is reported that they were (?chasing) a van which had been used in the robbery when at a certain point on the road a landmine, which has been planted by terrorists, was deliberately activated as the police jeep was passing. The OIC who was killed was a Muslim. Six of the constables were Sinhalese, and the seventh was a Tamil. The civilian was also a Tamil. The (?question) of whether this was an ambush with the staged robbery is being investigated.

Commercial, Industrial Security Ministry Formed

BK141331 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Excerpt] Transport Minister M.H. Mohamed was sworn in as minister for security of commercial and industrial establishments by President Jayewardene today. The new ministry has been created to mobilize the resources of commercial and industrial establishments to ensure their security together with public assistance. The idea is to relieve the strain on the security forces and the police.

Mr Mohamed told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the new ministry will mobilize public support and participation in the security of the nation. This will help in creation of an awareness regarding the threat to the nation, the [words indistinct] and happiness among the Sri Lanka community. The new minister met members of the Security Advisory Board today. Brigadier [words indistinct] this meeting as the new secretary of the ministry. Mr Mohamed has requested all private security agencies throughout the country to register with the ministry on or before Tuesday, the 18th of this month.

Hijackers To Be Tried in Iran, Not Extradited

LD181035 Tehran IRNA in English 1023 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, dec 18 IRNA — The hijackers of the Kuwaiti Airways [as received] who commandeered a passenger plane to Tehran Dec 4, will be put on trial and will not be extradited to any other country, said the Tehran public prosecutor Hojjat ol-Eslam Mir-Emadi here today.

Speaking in a press conference Hojjat ol-Eslam Mir-Emadi condemned the hijacking and announced that the hijackers will be tried in accordance with the penal law of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

He told reporters that although a number of countries have requested extradition of the hijackers, due to the point that so far no country has extradited to Iran the hijackers of the Iranian planes, such an irrational request will not be accepted.

Further on the procedure of the trial of the hijackers and their files, he said that the issue was under investigation and the hijackers were being interrogated and as soon as their files are completed their trial will start. He added that following completion of the investigation, it will be decided whether should be open or not.

On the punishment of hijackers, he said that the religious judge will make the decision in accordance with the content of the files and based on the Islamic laws. However, he stressed, "nationality of the hijackers will not have any effect on the verdict,"

When asked on what stage the investigation of the cases were, he said according to the law once a case is under investigation, no disclosures will be made.

On the cases of the hijackers of an Air France jetliner, hijacked to Tehran Aug. 2, he said the case was in final stages and once it is completed, their trial will start.

Saudi King Thanks Khamene'i for Hijack Ending

LD181138 Tehran IRNA in English 1121 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia in a message to President 'Ali Khamene'i thanked him for bringing the issue of the hijacked Kuwaiti jetliner to a successful ending.

In the message which was published today, King Fahd thanked President 'Ali Khamene'i and other Iranian officials for their efforts and timely action in ending the issue.

King Fahd praised the wise attitude of the Iranian officials and prayed for well being of the two Muslim nations and also hoped that God almighty would enable them to serve Islam and their countries.

Second Attack on Greek Tanker Reported

LD171223 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] According to shipping sources in Bahrain, the Greek supertanker *Ninemia*, which suffered an Iraqi air attack last Saturday in the Persian Gulf, came under rocket attack again yesterday while being escorted by two tugs. The second attack took place after the fire caused by the first attack had been extinguished by rescue teams.

Meanwhile, the Greek merchant marine minister announced in Athens that two crew members of the tanker's 27 crew members were wounded and are missing, while another one is reported seriously injured.

Tehran Reports Attack on Tanker Aegis Cosmic

LD171706 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1649 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] According to an AP dispatch, shipping sources in the region have reported: A tanker called *Aegis Cosmic* was attacked by an unknown aircraft in the southern waters of the Persian Gulf. The same sources said that the ship's captain had reported that no casualties had been sustained during the bombing.

Musavi: Iran Will Not Accept 'Ignominious Peace'

LD180956 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] Mashhad, Dec. 18, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Monday said that the Islamic Republic of Iran will never surrender to an ignominious peace but will continue the war to the final victory.

Speaking to a gathering of people at holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) [as received], the prime minister further on the Iraqi imposed war said that the peace the United States was seeking aimed at ensuring flow of oil and other natural resources to feed the U.S. and European machinery. Furthermore, by imposing such a peace on Iran, the U.S. wanted to preserve its interests and those of reactionary regimes in the region, Musavi said.

He stressed that in fighting the Iraqi forces Iran would not even rely on modern military equipment but by relying on the divine power and support of the Iranian people, it would continue the war until the final victory.

Condemning vicious [words indistinct] (? people) and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran would resist such propaganda and thwart plots of the enemies of Islam.

He emphasised that unity between the people and the government enabled the government to run the wheels of the country without any foreign assistance.

Once again referring to the propaganda of the enemy on political, social and economic situation in Iran, Musavi said that the enemy intended to overthrow the Islamic revolution. To this end, it has

repeatedly attacked Iranian oil tankers to stop oil flow and bring the Islamic republic down to its knees.

But, he stressed, the Islamic revolution without any reliance on foreign powers, is running the wheels of its economy to an extent that with its divine values, it has changed the status of the region, hoping that one day it would also change that of the world.

The prime minister arrived here Monday to inaugurate the opening of the first All-Iran College Students Congress of Poetry and Literature.

Prime Minister Interviewed on War With Iraq

GF171333 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi answered the questions of the Canadian paper *CRESCENT INTERNATIONAL*, which focused on a number of issues. The brother prime minister affirmed the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the aggressive war launched by the ruling regime in Iraq against the Islamic revolution.

On the latest victorious operations launched by the Muslim fighters in the region of Meymak, the prime minister said: These operations were limited and successful. We liberated the heights that have great strategic importance. Our war policy did not change. Saddam and his Ba'thist regime must be destroyed. He added: A large number of Iraqi Muslims have been expelled. They turned to Islamic Iran. These people should return home. We have sustained numerous losses in this war. But as we said before, we repeat that if a popular government assumes power in Iraq, we will not then insist on having the Iraqi Muslim people pay us reparations.

In his interview, Mir Husayn Musavi expounded on the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: We are firm in adhering to the principles of our revolution and in defending the oppressed and deprived in the world. This is part of the principles we adopt. The brother prime minister also said that the Iran of Islam wants to expand its relations with the world, and indicated that the relations of Islamic Iran with Africa have expanded. He asserted that if the Islamic countries and the Third World countries joined forces they would meet many of their needs. The prime minister described the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran as active and effective. He added: We consider our relations with the world countries as a means to promote the message of the Islamic revolution.

Khomeyni Receives Officials 17 December

LD171458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Mr Mahalati, the imam's representative at the Islamic Revolution Court, and also Mr Reza'i and Mr Rafiqdust, commander and minister respectively of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, accompanied by the commander of the corps' central region, were received this morning by Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic revolution and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and then conferred with the imam of the ummah. Also this morning, families of martyrs, POW's, and the lost warriors from the town of Qazvin met with Imam Khomeyni, leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, at Hoseyniyeh-e Jamaran. In the course of this meeting, Mr Karrubi, the imam's representative and head of the Islamic Martyr's Foundation, while honoring the anniversary of Ayatollah Dr Mohammad Mofatteh's martyrdom, paid tribute to this great martyr's struggle and selfless efforts in the two holy trenches of the seminary and university; and referring to the unity between clergy and university students, Mr Karrubi, on behalf of the imam of the ummah, praised the devotion and self-sacrifices of the families of martyrs, POW's, lost warriors, and the fighters who are ready to sacrifice their own lives, and offered the imam of the ummah's condolences and congratulations to them.

At the end of this meeting, the imam of the ummah responded to the sentiments expressed by the audience.

Montazeri Meets with IRGC Minister, Officials

LD142054 Tehran IRNA in English 1736 GMT 14 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 14, IRNA — Ayatollah al-Uzma Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri called on the officials of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) to pay total attention to their sensitive responsibilities and to improve military training in the corps.

Ayatollah Montazeri met Thursday with the IRGC commander, Mohsen Reza'i, Imam Khomeyni's representative in the IRGC Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahalati, IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust and a number of other IRGC officials.

The officials gave a report on the situation in the battle fronts and the combat readiness of the Islamic forces.

The ayatollah also urged that key posts in the IRGC be awarded to competent and revolutionary individuals instead of "opportunist and weak" persons.

He stressed that criticism of officials and organisations should be constructive and logical.

Velayati Comments on ICO Meeting, Departs

LD171131 Tehran IRNA in English 1118 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a high ranking political delegation composed of representatives from Foreign Ministry and Majlis, left Tehran for Sanaa, capital city of Yemen Arab Republic, this morning to attend the fifteenth session of the foreign ministers of Islamic countries.

Speaking to IRNA at the airport prior to his departure, he hoped that the four-day conference through taking correct measures would defend interests of Islam and the Muslims.

He further added that unfortunately in the past the conference, in dealing with the issues of Islamic world, has not been decisive

enough and at the same time has not been active enough vis-a-vis the international issues. However, he stressed, the Islamic world which enjoys vast resources, through its unity could play a determining role in the world. If the issues such as that of Palestine and Afghanistan had been dealt with seriously, the Islamic world and the oppressed Muslims would have had a different fate.

One of the issues to be discussed in the conference, is the Iraqi imposed war, and the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards it is clear, he added. "We have repeatedly announced that the only way to end this war, is removal of a regime which has fanned the flame of the war and has started the war against the Islamic Republic of Iran," said Velayati.

Further on the issue he said that the Islamic combatants would continue to fight off the Iraqi forces until their final victory and overthrow of Saddam. This is the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and if the issue is raised in the course of the conference, this will be announced again.

Issues to be discussed in the four-day conference, which will be attended by representatives from all Islamic countries, include the Iraqi imposed war, the situation in the Middle East, issue of Palestine and problems of Palestinians in the occupied territories, the Afghanistan crisis and famine in Africa. Another issue in the agenda of the conference is the membership of Brunei, which once approved, will bring the number of members to 46.

Majlis Calls for Expulsion of Egypt From ICO

LD181235 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Dec 84

[Text] The Public Relations Office of the Majlis announced that the Majlis foreign policies commission has issued a statement on the presence of Egypt's representative at the ICO foreign ministers session in Sanaa. The text of the statement is as follows:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful: Egypt's presence at the ICO foreign ministers session in Sanaa at a time when it is carrying the burden of the disgraceful Camp David accord on its shoulders, and despite not agreeing to violate its commitments toward America and the Zionist regime — although according to the irresponsible resolution passed by the ICO foreign ministers session in Casablanca in Morocco when it was superficially stated that Egypt must disregard the Camp David accord as a precondition for returning to the Arab fold and the fold of Muslim countries — disregards the holy Palestinian objective and the hopes of the ummah of Islam in the world to free the whole of the Palestine and noble Jerusalem from Zionist occupation.

Egypt's presence at the ICO completely adulterates the Islamic nature of the conference and is another step toward the Camp David accord. Simultaneous with the ICO foreign ministers session in Sanaa, the Majlis Foreign Policies Commission wishes to reiterate the need for a decisive confrontation by the resistance countries within the anti-Zionist front against the new unholy development brought about by Egypt's presence at the ICO proceeding, stresses the undesirable aspects of the presence of Egypt's regime at an Islamic conference as reflected in the minds of the Islamic countries, and asks all member countries to take proper action to expel Egypt's representative from the conference and help the unity of the ranks of Muslim countries against the Zionist regime and its major supporter, the United States.

Commentary Views Iraqi Participation in ICO

GF171842 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Dec 84

[From the "Political Follow-up" program]

[Text] The Islamic Republic's participation in the Islamic conference in Sanaa has provoked a wave of speculation by numerous supporters and opponents of the Islamic revolution.

The most relevant question in this regard was summarized by a remark on the Islamic Republic's attendance of such a conference, in which — according to the news agencies and diplomatic circles — crusading Minister Tariq Hanna 'Aziz will attend as Saddam's regime minister and as head of Iraq's delegation. This gives the observer a negative impression of the conference itself. The Muslim delegation from Iraq is headed by a Christian, who does not believe in Islam, the Prophet of Islam, or the Koran. The man publicly declares his hostility for all that is Islamic both in Iraq and the Islamic world.

Those who know the truth about Tariq Hanna 'Aziz emphasize that crusader circles and international Zionism have assigned him the task of ending the Islamic presence inside Iraq, through his effective participation in making important decisions, in his capacity as member of the so-called RCC and as head of Iraqi diplomacy which has had opportunities to deal with international institutions and international intelligence services. This fact puts him in direct contact with the makers of anti-Muslim policy who tell him what must be done inside Iraq to confront the Islamic movement without delay.

Notwithstanding all that is said about this minister-agent, numerous observers believe that Tariq Hanna 'Aziz's inclusion in the Islamic conference — if what is said is true — means, among other things, two important things: First, a mockery of Islam and Muslims, and making light of Muslims, and a disgusting contempt for all the ambitions and hopes of the nation. Otherwise, what is the justification for Christians attending an Islamic conference?

In the view of observers regarding this participation, the second thing is demonstrating the ability of crusader circles to penetrate all barriers in order to bring its representative to the platform of Islamic conferences, like the one Sanaa will witness soon.

Notwithstanding what the conference will turn out to be, and despite the Islamic Republic's remarks on the facts pertaining to it, the Islamic Republic intends to participate in it, driven by several factors. Among these are: First, its strong belief that it is necessary to attend all international forums, notwithstanding the bitter facts, because it sees itself as obligated to speak the truth and make the world hear it in order to clear its conscience and to execute its legitimate duty and Islamic responsibility.

Refusing to attend would mean leaving the seat of the Islamic Republic vacant and, consequently, depriving conference participants of the concept of consultation and just exhortation which Islam commands to be done.

Second, the Islamic Republic believes that its commitment to the causes of Muslims and the destitute is part of its holy mission which calls upon it to express the view of the silent Islamic majority or that which is kept away from such conferences. This means the attendance of a legitimate and true representative of all the world's Muslims and destitute people.

Third, the Islamic Republic seeks to be a witness to what will take place in the conference, supporting correct views which adhere to Islamic law and fighting every deviation which may affect the resolutions and recommendations. It plays the role of a safety outlet to preserve all that it is possible to preserve among the sanctities of God and the interests of Muslims in general.

We pledge to all the children of the Islamic nation that we will always stand by good principles, say the truth, and support all those who are wronged. We rely on God who is the sponsor of the good.

Oil Minister Leaves For OPEC Session

LD171159 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Excerpts] Oil Minister Gharazi and an Islamic Republic delegation left for Geneva today to attend the new session of the OPEC ministerial conference. Current OPEC issues, including the effect of the reduction in oil production on oil prices, are to be discussed by the 13-member countries during the conference which will begin Wednesday 19 December.

Before leaving Tehran, the oil minister commented on OPEC's present situation. He said: We will not make self-sacrifices in order to allow Western conspirators to weaken the only economic organ belonging to the oppressed people, namely OPEC. In answer to a question on reports by certain media to the effect that some OPEC members are not observing their quota and the established prices, and on the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the oil minister said: The Islamic Republic of Iran has fully adhered to its obligations. Indeed, in order to maintain the determined prices and to strengthen the market, we reduced our quota by 70 million barrels last summer. Regrettably, however, not all the member countries follow the same policy. Some of them, having increased their production, actually helped to weaken the market. Consequently, contrary to expectations, reduced production did not result in a positive influence on the stabilization of or even a rise in prices.

Asked for his views on investments by the National Iranian Oil Company at international level, Gharazi said: My own views are the same as those of the government's with regard to economic plans and investments. As for foreign investments, they have only been applied to the Madras oil refinery in India. Apart from that, no other investments have been made. Investments made by the former regime with a colonialist policy in mind were halted after the victory of the Islamic revolution. Therefore, there are no commercial ties with countries included in the list of hostile parties.

In conclusion, commenting on the progress of oil industry capital investments, which play a key role in the reactivation of the country's economic sectors, the oil minister said: All projects involving production, shipment, refining and distribution of crude oil and its by-products are being actively implemented. Some of these projects, such as the project concerned with the production and refinery of gas in the No 7 refinery, as well as the completion of the Khangiran gas refinery, which is expected to be carried out within the next year, are given priority.

Oil Ministry Proposals

LD171528 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — The Iranian Oil Ministry warned fellow members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Monday not to succumb to a conspiracy by non-OPEC countries in joining an oil price war.

"Unfortunately some ministers of OPEC hold the belief that starting an oil price war and cutting the price to 15 dollars a barrel could out-rival the North-Sea oil producers," said a statement issued by the ministry.

"OPEC must deal vigilantly with such issues. A mistake and a conspiracy should not be compensated with another mistake.

"A price war is by no means in the interest of the OPEC countries," it said.

While pointing out that OPEC countries were overproducing a total of one million barrels a day above the 16 million barrel ceiling, the statement said Iran still objected that the present production ceiling was too high.

OPEC oil ministers will meet in Geneva on Wednesday to discuss the outcome of their decisions reached in their last meeting in late October.

The Oil Ministry also gave the following proposals to prevent further erosion of oil price stability:

— Strict and serious observance of OPEC decisions on production quotas and official prices.

— To prepare a pricing formula for oil products export and controlling the supply levels.

— Solving the issue of the relative difference in the price of light and heavy crude oils.

— Strengthening the existing understanding with non-OPEC oil producers.

The statement said the Islamic Republic had always been in the forefront of abiding by OPEC decisions, as in cutting its oil production by 70 million barrels last summer even at a time of war.

"This (cutting) was a real sacrifice for the protection of oil prices and preservation of OPEC's integration," it said.

Joint Staff Military Communique No 1,944

LD171749 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec, 17, IRNA — At least six Iraqi soldiers were killed and another eight wounded in an exchange of artillery fire in Fakkeh of Khuzestan Province on Sunday and two Iraqi soldiers were killed in the eastern province, according to a military communique published here today.

The communique published by the Joint staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and numbered 1944 said sporadic artillery fire raged in most of the battlefronts throughout Sunday.

In Panjwin and Seyyed Sadia the Iranian forces levelled three artillery emplacements and one surveillance post of the Iraqi troops. Elsewhere in the western fronts, the Iranian troops opened artillery fire on enemy positions destroying 17 artillery emplacements. In the same area a group of armed tribesmen infiltrated into enemy positions killing two Iraqi soldiers. Elsewhere in Sumar the Iranian forces repelled a convoy of Iraqi troops.

Artillery fire raged heavier in the south and near the city of Fakkeh, where six Iraqi soldiers were killed and another eight wounded. Meanwhile two larger bunkers of the enemy forces and one surveillance post across the Arvand River were set ablaze.

On the Sunday the Iraqi troops shelled the Iranian city of Abadan from across the city damaging three private houses in the city.

Khamene'i Hears Report on Tehran University

LD171912 Tehran IRNA in English 1405 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, dec 17, IRNA — Hojjat Ol-Islam Mahfuzi, special representative of Ayatollah Hoseyn Ali Montazeri at Tehran University, in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i here Monday morning reported on the situation at the University.

President Khamene'i advised him on the matters discussed, and stressed the need for preservation of the Islamic atmosphere at the universities, a careful planning and making use of the service of committed and Muslim personnel.

Meanwhile, in separate meeting the president received the head of Hajj and Pilgrimage Organisation, Br Reza'i, along with the management council of the organisation.

Reza'i reported to the president on this year's Hajj rituals and the pilgrimage to the holy shrines in Syria.

President Khamene'i, referring to the need for a careful planning for Hajj pilgrimage, said that special books and booklets explaining religious, social, historical and human issues related to Hajj ceremonies should be printed and provided to the pilgrims.

Agriculture Minister Receives Bulgarian Visitor

LD172308 Tehran IRNA in English 1610 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — The deputy foreign trade minister of Bulgaria, Spas Georgiev, currently in Iran at the head of a delegation, in a meeting here Monday morning with the minister of agriculture, 'Abbas-'Ali Zali, discussed expansion of mutual cooperation, particularly in the field of agriculture.

Zali said that measures have been taken for export of some 1,000 tons of citric fruits to Bulgaria.

The Bulgarian deputy foreign trade minister expressed willingness of his country for cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fields of agriculture such as cooperatives, forestry and irrigation.

ROK Deputy Minister Discusses Cooperation

LD172302 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 17, IRNA — Iranian deputy agriculture minister for fishing affairs, Mohammad Mir-Mohammadi held talks Monday with the visiting South Korean deputy minister of commerce and industries, (Chol Su-kim).

(Kim) expressed his government's interest in cooperating with Iran in providing fishing equipment and training shipping personnel.

In a separate meeting with Iran's deputy commerce minister, Mojtaba Khosrow Taj, the South Korean official said Iran oculd provide some of South Korea's needs for raw materials.

South Korean companies are presently active in several industrial projects in Iran, namely the Shiraz petrochemical plant, Tabriz power plant, natural gas distribution in Ahvaz and the Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas railway construction.

The South Korean economic and trade delegation is the first to visit Iran since the Islamic revolution in 1979.

Reportage on Visit of Mauritius Deputy Minister

Deputy Prime Minister Arrives

LD161300 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The Mauritius deputy prime minister arrived in Tehran this morning for talks with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the airport, he was welcomed by the deputy prime minister and the political director general of Afro-Asian Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. On his arrival, the Mauritius deputy prime minister gave an interview to our correspondent and described the objective behind the trip to Iran by the Mauritius delegation as an effort to expand relations between the two countries in various fields. He said: Mauritius is a member of the Nonaligned Movement in the Indian Ocean region and, considering their common views, the two countries can have extended political, cultural, and economic relations. He added:

Mauritius is interested in buying oil from the Islamic Republic of Iran and to cooperate with Iran in the field of textile manufacturing.

Meetings Begin

LD161804 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The first deputy prime minister of Mauritius, who has come to Tehran at the head of a political-economic delegation, and his accompanying delegation, today met with our country's deputy prime minister. In the course of this meeting, our country's deputy prime minister referred to the people's struggles and victory under the leadership of Imam Khomeyni and the elimination of colonialist hegemony in Iran, and said: Our nation, with its monolithic unity, gave a jaw-breaking answer to the enemy and through its resistance proved to the world that the United States is not invincible and it is possible to live without relying on either the East or the West. He added: The Islamic Republic of Iran is interested in expanding its relations with independent and oppressed countries.

Afterwards, while expressing delight at coming to Iran, the first deputy prime minister of Mauritius said: We have great respect for your independence vis-a-vis the domination of superpowers and the steadfastness of the Iranian nation against the aggression of aliens. Our aim on this trip is to review the possibility of overall expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Today, the people of Mauritius work very hard in order to liberate themselves from economic dependence and achieve independence, and in this connection we believe that the expansion of political and cultural relations with Iran is very useful to us.

Received by Foreign Minister

LD161822 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The first deputy prime minister of Mauritius met and conferred with the foreign affairs minister, Mr Velayati, this afternoon. During this meeting, while expressing his country's desire to expand relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Mauritius first deputy prime minister asked that Iran pay greater attention to its relations with Mauritius in view of the Islamic Republic's foreign policy to give priority to African countries.

While emphasizing the policy of expanding relations with the Third World and African countries, Mr Velayati said: Iran and Mauritius and other countries in the Indian Ocean zone should keep this region free from the superpowers' interference in accordance with the resolutions passed by the United Nations. Therefore, we support the efforts which are exerted in order to liberate Diego Garcia from U.S. domination.

Mr Velayati went on: We believe that the Third World countries should cooperate with one another in order to meet their needs, otherwise these countries will become more dependent on the superpowers.

Received by Prime Minister

LD171456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] The deputy prime minister of Mauritius, who is currently in Tehran at the head of a delegation, met with Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi this morning. During this meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Prime Minister Hendi, the two sides discussed the expansion of economic, cultural and social relations between nonaligned, independent, and particularly Muslim countries.

Industries Minister Meets Japanese Ambassador

LD171206 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Dec 84

[Text] This morning the Japanese ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran met with Industries Minister Shafe'i. During the meeting, referring to expansion of the two countries' industrial and economic relations, the Japanese ambassador announced his country's wish to transfer technology to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The minister of industries, praising Japan's industrial development and the determination of its people, said: Our aim is to create a strong and independent industry. The establishment of relations with your country can help us to achieve this aim; and this assistance would be made possible through the purchase of oil and the sale of industrial machinery.

Clandestine Radio on Completion of Soviet Airfields

GF161012 (Clandestine) Radio Nejat-e Iran in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Dec 84

[Text] The work to complete two Soviet military airfields close to Iranian borders has ended. According to a report by our correspondent in Pakistan, following the invasion of Afghanistan the Soviet Union quickly began to construct four military airfields, two of which have been completed and commissioned. This is a serious threat to Iran. The airfields are: (Bast-e Amiran) located 30 km from Arak in northwest Afghanistan — this means complete coverage of Khorasan Province. The second airfield is (Shindand) airfield in southwest Afghanistan which can cover the entire Sistan va Baluchestan Province.

According to our correspondent, the plans for these airfields were drawn up even before the Soviets occupied Afghanistan, but construction was delayed due to the unrest and the domestic situation in Afghanistan. Our correspondent in Karachi noted that the transfer of over 40,000 soldiers from the Soviet southern republics to (?Zarank) military base which is close to one of these airfields has again been reported by informed sources.

NVOI Accuses Iran of Kuwaiti Airliner Hijacking

TA171359 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 15 Dec 84

[Unattributed commentary: "Terrorism Is the Basis of the Islamic Government's Activity"]

[Excerpts] Dear Compatriots: When it is said that the foundation and basis of the policy of the Islamic regime ruling over our homeland is terrorism, this is no exaggeration but the exact reality. Yes, today mullah-stricken Iran is recognized in the world as a regime relying on terror. Such a characterization of Iran's Islamic regime is based on undisputable facts.

Within the country as well as abroad, the terrorist Islamic rulers resort to terrorism in order to promote their evil aims. Let us review this recent hijacking by leaders of the Islamic regime. The recent hijacking of the Kuwaiti airliner by rulers of the Islamic regime, like similar other measures, was so amateurish and (?clumsy) that even a child could understand the true picture of the situation.

At 0300 on 6 December, the Kuwaiti airliner with 150 passengers and 11 crew members on board was hijacked by 6 armed persons between Dubai and Karachi. Four of these six terrorists were allegedly Lebanese citizens, and two others Iranian. It is still a [word indistinct] puzzle as to how these six terrorists managed to carry the weapons — which are reportedly Israeli — onto the plane. On the order of the terrorists, the plane landed at 0500 at Tehran's Mehrabad Airport instead of Karachi. On the instructions of Iranian officials, the plane hijacked by the terrorists was moved to a separate runway.

According to a scenario prepared in advance, at first the hijackers released 43 women and children. Later on, they separated the Pakistani military personnel who were on this plane from the other passengers, and released them. Iranian authorities flew them to Karachi on that same day without any delay. Then the terrorists completely separated 3 Kuwaiti diplomats and 2 U.S. citizens from the rest of the passengers, and in an ultimatum demanded that the Kuwaiti Government release 17 terroristswho were arrested and tried last December on charges of blowing up the U.S. Embassy and the French Consulate in Kuwait. Three of the terrorists were sentenced to death. [passage indistinct]

The hijackers, who enjoyed the constant assistance of the Islamic regime's security officials at Mehrabad Airport, and who even received weapons from these same officials who were disguised as nurses, did not refrain from insulting and hitting the passengers, particularly children and women, in the course of carrying out this shameful scenario. Two of the passengers became victims of this shameful crime by the terrorists of the Islamic (?government).

The hijackers continuously repeated their ultimatum that if their demands on the Kuwaiti Government were not met, they would blow up the plane. However, amid all these developments, the last act of the scenario by the mullahs was begun. Suddenly it was announced that the Islamic regime's security officials had allegedly stormed the hijacked airliner and had arrested the hijackers as a result of a miracle — similar to the other miracles of the gentlemen.

Although these shows are childish, they cannot but cause one to ponder. What is the truth? Why did the Islamic government stage such a scandalous scenario? The fact is that perhaps Kuwait is the only country in our region that is opposed to the U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf region, and is trying at least to reduce its dependence on the West by strengthening its military defense. The policy of the tiny Kuwait Government is not to the liking of the mullahs who are in power in our country. For this reason, for a long time now, the Islamic regime's leaders have threatened Kuwait periodically with armed aggression.

This same Mr Rafsanjani, in one of his recent Friday prayer sermons, openly and impudently threatened Kuwait that if it does not accept the stupid policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will occupy two of Kuwait's islands. Since Kuwait was not ready to deviate from its policy of consolidating its independence and national security, the Islamic regime resorted to the most shameless and at the same time the most scandalous methods, namely terrorism — in the style of the Reagan administration — and hijacking.